

The Coming Food Famine

OUR AMERICAN boast that we feed the world is rapidly having the wind taken out of it. Our exporting power, as to food stuffs, steadily diminishes. Ten years ago the United States exported enough wheat to feed 36,000,000 persons; last year the American export of wheat would have fed only 10,000,000 persons. Ten years ago the United States exported 800,000 head of live stock for food purposes; last year the export was only 188,000 head, less than one-fourth. Ten years ago we exported 1,400,000,000 pounds of dressed meats; last year 600,000,000 pounds.

The average productivity of American soil is steadily decreasing. The production of food materials per head of the population is steadily decreasing. The surplus over domestic needs is steadily decreasing. The cultivated farm acreage has decreased since 1900. If there be no change from present methods, and population increases as in the last decade, the United States in another ten years will be consuming more of the staple food stuffs than she can produce, and will be importing far more food stuffs than now, and exporting almost nothing.

In Europe, farm land produces on the average nearly three times as much per acre as American farm land. This is in spite of the fact that the soil has been cultivated for centuries, and was never as fertile as ours under natural conditions. There are two remedies we in America can apply. First, to increase farm acreage and farm population. Second, to increase the productivity of each acre of cultivated land. At present, among the highest rates of yield per acre are found on the reclaimed "abandoned farms" of stony-thin-soiled New England, while the lowest averages are in the great wheat belt and corn belt of the middle west.

"Intensive cultivation" must be applied, not merely on irrigated farms where crops of several hundred dollars per acre may be expected, but also on the ordinary fields of the rainfall regions. The principles of scientific soil culture are good wherever and whenever applied. The cost of living is affected more by the prevailing high prices and restricted supply of food products than by any other factor. Not only that, but America's exported surplus of agricultural products is what has given this country capital to work with in developing her resources, and given America the primary among the nations. If we are to eat all we raise, what profit is there in that?

The only sources of real wealth and accumulated capital are from the products of the earth, air, and water, and from the skilful application of man's labor to transform raw material into useful things. And there can be no accumulation of wealth unless a surplus be produced, so that some can be stored, and utilized in future production.

Madero has reached the goal of his ambition—which means that he will be blamed for everything that goes wrong during the next six years.

It would be a great pity to have trouble now with Americans in Torreon, after the revolutionary disturbances passed with no international complications. Certainly it would be the part of wisdom for the federal government to keep plenty of troops on hand to quell any rioting at the start.

Sense and Nonsense

THE PROPOSED central reserve associations for the issuing of emergency currency based on commercial paper to be discounted not for individuals but for banks, involve little more than a legalizing (in its one essential feature) of the clearing house certificate plan which was successfully applied to stay the panic of 1907.

Opposition to the plan of the national monetary commission is largely of the sort voiced by a United States senator at the Transmississippi congress Thursday: the senator said he would "always oppose any banking and currency law written by bankers for bankers." He might as justly say that he would always oppose anything a doctor told him about medicine, or anything a lawyer told him about law.

There is too much of that sort of sentiment abroad: that the men to frame the laws are the people who know least about the subject matter.

For our part, we should much rather live under a banking and currency law framed by bankers, than under one framed by politicians and demagogues.

Ninety-three million people have the opportunity of carefully examining the proposed plan as long as they and their elected representatives like; and shall a good basis of discussion be damned in advance merely because the man who proposed it is named Aldrich? Some people talk and act as if Aldrich were a sort of magician who could summon mighty devils at his will, to take the American people by the throat and choke them to death. He is only one man, after all. If he has bestowed more thought than most people, on currency problems, and has suggested something good in his main features, why condemn it without examination merely because of a name signed to the report?

If people would only think for themselves, instead of following the bell-wethers into the mire, there would be less fear of the Aldriches in public life, and less opportunity for the demagogues who thrive on senseless prejudice.

Americans believe in fair play, they believe in giving Madero at least a fair chance to make good, and they will not assist any counter revolution. The American authorities in seeking to prevent unlawful acts on this side of the border will not have to go against a prevailing undercurrent of sentiment as they did before.

The east is still supreme in financial affairs, chiefly because the west permits it and will have it so. The west could be nearly independent if it were ready to cooperate under the modified Aldrich plan. Even if Wall street were "behind" the Aldrich plan, the plan will be so carefully modified before being adopted that it will prove a Frankenstein, more powerful than its creators or would-be masters.

The Kansas gentlemen who tarred and feathered a Kansas lady must feel proud of themselves about now. Especially since they confessed that they were put to it by their gossiping wives. "The woman—she gave it me, and I did eat," Adam and Eve may be a myth, but the little story that goes with them through the ages is about as true to life today as it was 10,000,000 years ago.

One-Sentence Philosophy

POINTED PARAGRAPHS.
(Chicago News.)

The umbrella dealer has a lot put by for a rainy day.

A doctor of divinity should believe in the faith cure.

There is more or less moonshine in the astrological business.

The winner never has any fault to find with the referee's decision.

Even a cyclone cellar will not protect a man from a domestic tempest.

Don't forget that your wife enjoys a little honest praise now and then.

A graft by any other name is just as apt to land some men behind the bars.

When it comes to falling in love with a giddy girl, there is no fool like an old fool.

The wife of a dyspeptic man may not agree with him any more than her cooking does.

The average man will stand up for himself no matter how many people he has to sit on in order to do it.

It's as difficult for some people to draw their own conclusions as it is for them to extract their wisdom teeth.

IN AND OUT OF THE CITY.
(Philadelphia Record.)

If George Washington never told a lie he couldn't have been much of a fisherman.

A family descends from father to son, and sometimes the descent is something fierce.

A nervous man is easily undone, but the way dresses are now built it is hard to undo a woman.

If it wasn't for rectifying the mistakes of our youth we wouldn't have much to do in our old age.

When it comes to buying wedding presents for him it is extremely doubtful if all the world loves a lover.

LITTLE STORIES.

The Black Hawk.

A charitable-disposed official of the municipal government at Washington was of an interesting exchange of views between two orphans at a dinner given to the newboys of the capital by popular subscription.

"As the lads were waiting for their dessert, they placed their grimy hands side by side on the tablecloth.

"Mine is dirtier than yours" was the claim made by one boy.

"Maybe it is," said the second newboy; "but you don't want to fergit you're two years older'n me."

Bite Grass Don't Melt.

Representative Cushman was talking on the lumber tariff, says the Washington Post, and a Kentucky member interrupted. "Oh," replied Cushman, the gentleman comes from the glorious state of Kentucky, which produces the best whiskey, the fastest horses and the most beautiful women; but what does he know about lumber?"

"I'm told they make whiskey there so good that they have to blindfold themselves before drinking it, because if they saw it it would make their mouths water, and that would spoil the drink."

Mr. Stanley, of Kentucky, was on his feet in reply. "Sir," he said, "Kentucky is justly proud of its horses, its whiskeys and its women. But it pays a tax of \$1.10 per gallon on its whiskey and pays it gladly; its horses are being put out of business as fast as anti-racing laws will do it, and as to its women, why, sir, I want to say that Kentucky will never appeal for protection for her women so long as the angels in heaven don't engage in beauty contests among themselves."

And then Mr. Cushman went right on talking about lumber, stopping occasionally to pick a silver out of his suit.

Uncle Denatured Poem

I AM coughing, mother, coughing, till my neck is out of joint, and I wish you'd bring the goose-goose. I have to cough in modern tongues, till my India rubber larynx seems to telescope my lungs. I've done ground and lofty coughing, all the plain and fancy kinds, till my coughing jarred the plaster and shook down the window blinds; I have coughed a counter-tenor, I have coughed a rumbly bass, I have coughed until my coughing blew the whiskers from my face. All the dope you've brought me, mother, simply fails to hit the spot; I have taken tons of tablets, demijohns of liquid rot; I have drunk the tea you brewed me, worn a poultice on my throat, and the doctor has my savings and the druggist has my goat. Let us change the treatment, mother; give me goose or gander grease; rub it on my tortured larynx and perhaps I'll die in peace.

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The Daily Horoscope By T. K. Hedrick

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(November 17-)

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Happily, the influence does not last long, and if the day can be passed safely, all will be well. At least this peculiar form of "lunacy" will have passed. If this happens to be your birthday, however, the influences are reversed for you, and your love affairs will be fortunate.

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